


REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in this application, of which Claims 1, 6-8, 12 and 13 are independent. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention, and in particular to conform the language of these claims to that of Claim 1. These changes have been made solely to clarify the claim language, and to make the language of the respective independent claims more consistent, and are neither intended nor believed to narrow the scope of any claim element. The arguments presented in the Amendment dated August 19, 2005, in traversal of the prior-art rejections are believed to apply fully to the claims as now amended..

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant again respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data,

wherein said developing step includes first and second modes, wherein, in the first mode ~~develops~~ the input image data is developed a plurality number of times equal to the number of color image output apparatus, [[by]] using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein, in the second mode, ~~develops~~ the input image data is developed [[by]] using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

2. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to one of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

3. (original): An image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the optional color processing condition is a color processing condition corresponding to a combination of the plurality of color image output apparatus.

4. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, wherein the optional color processing condition is average values of color processing conditions corresponding to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

5. (original): An image processing method according to claim 3, further comprising a distributing process of distributing the input job to the plurality of color image output apparatus, wherein the optional color processing condition is determined by performing a weighing process of the color processing condition corresponding to each of the color image output apparatus in accordance with a distribution condition of said distributing process.

6. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, comprising:

means for developing input image data into bit map image data; and

selecting means for selecting either a first mode or a second mode in said developing means for developing.

wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained by said developing means for developing to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

7. (original): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data, said developing step providing a first mode and a second mode,

wherein the first mode develops the input image data a plurality of times by using a color processing condition corresponding to each of the plurality of color image output apparatus, and wherein the second mode develops the input image data by using an optional color processing condition and outputs a result obtained in said developing step to the plurality of color image output apparatus.

8. (currently amended): An image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus developed in said developing step is transferred to the first color-image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color-image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color-image output apparatus.

9. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of color-image output apparatus are of the same type, and said developing step performs includes performing a color matching process by using profiles corresponding to the type of the plurality of color-image output apparatus, and wherein said converting step performs includes performing a conversion matching gradation characteristics of the first and second color-image output apparatus.

10. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the gradation characteristics of the first color-image output apparatus are calibrated by a calibration process.

11. (currently amended): An image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said developing step performs includes performing a color adjustment process corresponding to the first color-image output apparatus and a gradation correction process matching the first color-image output apparatus.

12. (currently amended): An image processing apparatus for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color-image output apparatus, comprising:

developing means for developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color-image output apparatus; and

converting means for converting the bit map image data for the first color-image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color-image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus developed by said developing means is transferred to the first color_image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color_image output apparatus converted by said converting means step is transferred to the second color_image output apparatus.

13. (currently amended): A storage medium storing a program for realizing an image processing method for processing an input job in parallel by a plurality of color_image output apparatus, the program comprising:

a developing step of developing input image data into bit map image data for a first color_image output apparatus; and

a converting step of converting the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus into bit map image data for a second color_image output apparatus,

wherein the bit map image data for the first color_image output apparatus developed by said developing function is transferred to the first color_image output apparatus, and wherein the bit map image data for the second color_image output apparatus converted in said converting step is transferred to the second color_image output apparatus.

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